

REMARKS

Applicant's claims 1, 3 through 7 and 10 are cancelled. Claim 13 is put in independent form. Applicants' Claims 2, 8, 11 and 12 are made dependent on claim 17. Claims 2, 8, 9, and 11 through 18 are pending.

Claims 7-12 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Marks (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,055 hereinafter Marks) in view of Tomitaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,193 hereinafter Tomitaka) in view of Robinson et al. (GB 2,313,251A hereinafter Robinson).

Claim 17 calls for:

“A method of selective acquisition of participants in a video telephony session comprising the steps of :

providing videophone mike and speakers for selective participants in a video telephony session to operate in a shared mode;

building a visual enumeration list of multiple humans in a single display in the video telephony session for the camera to focus on wherein the building step includes comparing a stored bit map of the faces of participants with a received bit map from the camera;

determining locations of the humans by determining the location of the faces in the image;

controlling the camera to hop directly from human to human using the location of the faces in a shared mode; and

designating a target person of the multiple humans in a single display in a whisper target mode, and diverting videophone mike and speakers and camera out of shared audio and visual mode to private video and conversation.

There is nothing in either Marks or Tomitaka that suggests the step of designating a target person in a whisper target mode, and diverting videophone mike and speakers out of shared audio to private conversation. There is nothing in Robinson that teaches or suggests determining locations of the humans by determining the location of the faces in the image and controlling the camera to hop directly from human to human using the location of the faces. This claimed combination is not taught by the references. There is nothing in either reference of diverting from hopping directly from person to person by identifying the face to a private video and conversation.

Claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 18 dependent on claim 17 are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

Claim 2 further calls for the building step to include highlighting a human face display received from said camera and prompting users to identify if that human is to be included.

Claim 8 further calls for the step of automatically calling designated person's private phone when designating a target person as the whisper target.

Claim 9 further calls for the designated target person's cellphone is called.

Claim 11 further calls for said designating step includes removing all other humans on the screen but the target person.

Claim 12 further calls for the step of escaping from the whisper mode uses a remote.

Claim 13 is amended herein to be put in independent form and calls for
“A method of acquisition of participants in a video telephony session comprising the steps of :

building a visual enumeration list of humans in the video telephony session for the camera to focus on wherein the building step includes comparing a stored bit map of the faces of participants with a received bit map from the camera;

determining locations of the humans by determining the location of the faces in the image;

controlling the camera to hop directly from human to human using the location of the faces; and providing a voyeurism mode designating a target person for viewing without notice.

The examiner rejects claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Marks (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,055 hereinafter Marks) in view of Tomitaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,193 hereinafter Tomitaka) in view of Obata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,767 hereinafter Obata.

Neither Marks or Tomitaka teach or suggest a voyeurism mode designating a target person for viewing without notice. The examiner references Obata but it is not seen where this is taught in this reference either. The examiner references the GLANCE, APPROACH AND TALK events during video communication but it is not seen where this suggests a voyeurism mode designating a target person for viewing. There is no suggestion of that in the reference. There is every indication in the reference that all the persons being viewed know that they are being viewed. Prior to commencing communication with the companion, the image of the department to which the companion belongs, information of the members of the department, another person who is performing communication with the department and relative sections, and address information of the terminal of the foregoing persons, and address information of the terminal of the foregoing persons are acquired to perform communication while considering the state of the companion. In the case where a state of a companion intended to be

communicated with is intended to be observed, a sender selects "Glance." When "Glance" has been selected, the address of the image server of the department is required, and in step 12 it is received. In accordance with the received address, information is required to the image server and then the information is received. There is nothing that suggests a voyeurism mode designating a target person for viewing without notice. In the APPROACH mode the information of the sender, such as the name of the sender and the address of the terminal of the sender is transferred to the terminal of the companion and displayed on the screen of the terminal of the companion. Clearly, the target person is notified.

In view of the above applicant's claim 13, as amended, is deemed allowable.

Claim 14-16 dependent on claim 13 are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

Claim 14 further calls for said camera on the other end zooms on the target person for viewing.

Claim 15 further calls for the target person's view of user's view only has a freeze frame view of user's view before going into the voyeurism mode.

Claim 16 further calls for the step of escaping from the voyeurism mode using a remote.

In view of the above applicants' Claims 2, 8, 9, 11-18 are deemed allowable an early notice of allowance of these claims is deemed in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Troike
Robert L. Troike
Reg. no. 24183

Tel. (972) 917-4360